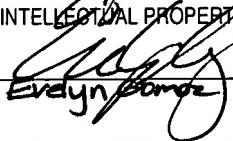


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/By:



Appl. No. : 10/656,911 Confirmation No. 8639

Applicant : Jeffery A. Whiteford, et al.

Filed : September 4, 2003

TC/A.U. : 1774

Examiner : Merrick L. Dixon

Docket No. : 40-003300US

Customer No. : 22798

Client Ref No.: 01-003300US

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Sir:

In response to the Office Action of January 12, 2006 please amend the above-identified application as indicated herein. Please reconsider the application in light of the amendments and remarks below.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.